

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims provided below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-30. Cancelled

31. (Currently amended) A method for reducing  $\beta$ -cell dysfunction in an individual with a pancreatic disorder, wherein said dysfunction results in diabetes, comprising:

(i) introducing ~~a nucleic acid molecule encoding an inhibitor of IL-1 $\beta$~~  into a  $\beta$  cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of the naturally-occurring interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein (IRAP), a soluble interleukin-1 receptor decoy protein, a soluble type I tumor necrosis factor alpha receptor decoy protein, a human insulin growth factor I (IGF-I) protein, a human insulin-like growth factor II (IGF-II) protein, a signal transducer and activator of transcription 6 (STAT-6) protein, and a nuclear factor of activated T cell (NF-AT) protein; and

(ii) transplanting the  $\beta$  cell of step (a) into the individual so as to reduce  $\beta$  cell dysfunction.

32. Cancelled.

33. Cancelled.

34. Cancelled.

35. (Currently amended) A method for reducing Fas mediated  $\beta$ -cell apoptosis in an individual with a pancreatic disorder, wherein said  $\beta$ -cell apoptosis results in diabetes, comprising:

(i) ~~introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding an inhibitor of Fas mediated apoptosis~~ into a  $\beta$  cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of the naturally-occurring interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein (IRAP), a soluble interleukin-1 receptor decoy protein, a soluble type I tumor necrosis factor alpha receptor decoy protein, a human insulin growth factor I (IGF-I) protein, a human insulin-like growth factor II (IGF-II) protein, a signal transducer and activator of transcription 6 (STAT-6) protein, and a nuclear factor of activated T cell (NF-AT) protein; and

(ii) transplanting the  $\beta$  cell of step (a) into the individual so as to reduce  $\beta$  cell apoptosis.

36. Cancelled.

37. Cancelled.

38. Cancelled.

39. (Currently amended) A mammalian  $\beta$ -cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule ~~comprising~~ encoding and expressing ~~an inhibitor of IL-1  $\beta$  activity~~ a protein selected from the group consisting of the naturally-occurring interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein (IRAP), a soluble interleukin-1 receptor decoy protein, a soluble type I tumor necrosis factor alpha receptor decoy protein, a human insulin growth factor I (IGF-I) protein, a human insulin-like growth factor II (IGF-II) protein, a signal transducer and activator of transcription 6 (STAT-6) protein, and a nuclear factor of activated T cell (NF-AT) protein, wherein the expression of the ~~inhibitor of IL-1  $\beta$  activity~~ nucleic acid reduces said  $\beta$  cell dysfunction in an individual with a pancreatic disorder in which said dysfunction results in diabetes.

40. Cancelled.

- 41. Cancelled.
- 42. Cancelled.